



Date: July 2, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Weekly Update Ending July 2, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending July 2, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

City Manager

To coordinate various aspects of the Employee Transition Plan and to ensure appropriate and adequate communications with employees, the City Manager has designated David Gonzalez as Special Assistant to the City Manager effective July 3. David will be working on various employee assistance and transition efforts that will be necessary due to implementation of the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan and related strategies to eliminate the City's General Fund structural deficit. David has worked for the City since 1987 following his completion of a Master's in Public Administration degree at San Diego State University. During his tenure with the City, David has held a variety of positions of increasing importance in the departments of Financial Management, Public Works, Human Resources and Technology Services.

City Attorney

Initial checks in partial settlement of the gas antitrust lawsuit have been received. The City and its ratepayers will benefit in the amount of approximately \$3.8 million. In addition, the City and its ratepayers will receive, over a period of 20 years, \$9.9 million. The terms of this partial settlement were previously authorized by the City Council in closed session.

Planning and Building

The Planning Commission voted to support a year-round homeless shelter at 1368 Oregon Avenue. As proposed it would offer 59 overnight beds to homeless who would be bussed to the site from at least two locations elsewhere in the City.

Technology Services

The City of Long Beach is increasing its efforts to communicate openly with the Long Beach community and is pleased to announce an expanded E-Notify menu on its home page www.longbeach.gov. Individuals who sign up can now receive automatic notification of City Manager press releases, *The Wave*, a monthly City publication, and Long Beach Police and Long Beach Airport updates.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health

A public meeting to request health data reports from the public for consideration in the citywide Comprehensive Human Health Risk Assessment regarding air pollution and noise was held on July 1 at the Miller Family Health Education Center. Fifty-seven community members attended the meeting and voiced their concerns about possible noise and air pollution in association with the I-710 redesign, Airport improvements and the Port. The concerns voiced will be studied as a part of the overall Health Risk Assessment.

Community Development, Housing Services Bureau

The Jamboree Affordable Housing Development at West Gateway has been awarded \$3.8 million in Multi-Family Housing Program funds by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The development, located at 745 W. 3rd Street, will provide 64 affordable townhouse and flat-type units to qualified low-income households. The large units will help alleviate overcrowding in the neighborhood.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

On June 30, the Redevelopment Agency Board conducted a special evening session to select three consultants from those that provided proposals for the Independent Study of Redevelopment. The study is going to look at redevelopment practices statewide, and assess and make recommendations related to Long Beach Redevelopment practices. These three firms will be invited to provide oral presentations to the Agency Board and public at a yet-to-be-determined Redevelopment Agency Board meeting. The three firms selected are Economic & Planning Systems, Clarion Associates and MGT of America. All proposals are available to the public by contacting the Redevelopment Bureau.

Department of Health and Human Services, Preventive Health Bureau

More than 150 community members attended the National HIV Testing Day on June 26 at Houghton Park. This community outreach awareness event was sponsored by pharmaceutical companies and included free Rapid HIV testing, food and entertainment. Community-based HIV service providers from the area were on hand to provide education materials to all participants.

Library Services

A new Genealogy Section opened at the Main Library on June 26. The section provides a larger area for expanded resources and study tables for local genealogists to pursue their research. Among the resources is the newly established "Roots Collection of African American Genealogy." This project was undertaken in cooperation with the Questing Heirs Genealogical Society and the African-American Heritage Society, who co-sponsored the dedication program. Robert Brasher was presented with the City's S.P.I.R.I.T. award in recognition of his 15 years of service as a Questing Heir volunteer at the Library. Over 50 people attended the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

COMMUNITY VOICES AND BUDGET CHOICES 2005

The City of Long Beach would like to invite the Long Beach community to help steer the City toward a stable fiscal future by participating in the second annual Budget Summit on **Saturday, July 10, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**, at the Long Beach Marriott, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, near the intersection of Spring Street and Lakewood Boulevard. The current financial situation will be outlined, projections discussed, and next year's draft budget previewed, while affording the community an opportunity to ask questions of the City Manager and Department Directors.

Public Works, Long Beach Airport

In November 2003, the Airport embarked upon a yearlong runway rehabilitation project for its main Runway 12/30. To date, all of the completed work has taken place at night so that alternate Runway 7L/25R has not been needed. However, the Airport is currently at the phase of rehabilitation that must be conducted during daylight hours and main Runway 12/30 will be closed on seven Saturdays to accommodate the work.

On Saturday, July 10, and continuing for six additional Saturdays, commercial aircraft will arrive and depart on the Airport's alternate Runway 7L/25R from an east-west direction, just south of Carson Street and in line with Wardlow Road. Alternate Runway 7L/25R will be used from 7:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. on July 10 and on six additional Saturdays through mid-September 2004.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

The Long Beach Municipal Band is offering free concerts beginning **Tuesday, July 6** and running through August 13. Conducted by Larry Curtis, all concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. The opening week of the 2004 season features the hits from Chicago, *Harry Potter*, and Elton John, as well as musical tributes to both President Ronald Reagan and entertainer Ray Charles. The uniquely talented Sherwood Sledge joins forces with the Studio Band for the finale. The concert dates are as follows: Tuesdays, July 6, 13, and 20 at Bixby Park, 130 Cherry Avenue; Tuesdays, July 27, and August 3 at Whaley Park, 5620 Atherton Street; Tuesday, August 10, at Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E. 23rd Street; Wednesdays, July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, and 11 at Los Cerritos Park, 3750 Del Mar Avenue; Thursdays, July 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, and 12 at Marine Stadium, 5255 Paoli Way, and Fridays, July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6 and 13 at El Dorado Park, Studebaker Road and Willow Street. These weekly performances will have an expected attendance of 3,000 to 5,000 per week.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine

On **Saturday, July 27**, Silverado Park will host a NFL Sports Legends Football Clinic for youth ages seven -13 years old. The clinic will include former pro football players from the Dallas Cowboys, Tony Hill, Dennis Thurman, and Ed "too Tall" Jones. The players will provide photos and autographs. The clinic will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and is free and open to the public.

AWARDS

Library Services

The Disabled Resources Center presented its Community Service Award to the Long Beach Public Library at its 25th annual awards dinner on June 24. The award is to recognize the Library's outstanding work with its innovative Information Center for People with Disabilities and the library services now provided to the disabled community.

Long Beach Energy

A 85% overall satisfaction rating for gas services provided by Long Beach Energy was received for the month of May 2004.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,188 emergency calls for service; 120 calls were for fires and 20 calls involved structures, and to 717 emergency medical calls; 465 of which required paramedics.

Fire Chief Terry Harbour and Manager of Fire Administration Daniel Gooch retired from the City of Long Beach with a combined 64 years of service to the City of Long Beach.

Police

The North Division conducted a walking beat operation in the area of Paramount Boulevard between Market and South Streets. The purpose of the operation was to deter a recent increase in violent crimes, residential and vehicle burglaries. Six search warrants were served during the operation, resulting in the seizure of numerous items taken during recent burglaries. Officers made one felony and five misdemeanor arrests, identified nine gang members and 12 associate gang members, and conducted 57 field interviews.

Detectives conducted a citywide parole/probation sweep to impact a recent increase in auto theft and auto burglary crimes. Parole and Probation Officers assisted in serving 26 search warrants. Three arrests were made for crimes including commercial burglary and receiving stolen property.

In response to recent spikes in violent and gang-related crimes, the West Division coordinated a Crime Suppression Task Force within the Anaheim Corridor and portions of South and East Divisions. During the operation, officers made 10 felony and 46 misdemeanor arrests, issued 58 traffic citations, towed 17 vehicles, conducted 100 field interviews and seized one gun.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Bureau Long Beach Energy, Recycling

Staff from both departments made a presentation to fourth graders at Adams Elementary School on June 29 and 30. The program teaches fourth grade students about the dangers of household hazardous waste and how to dispose of them properly. Staff in the Traveling Recycling Education Center (TREC Truck) teaches students about proper recycling. About 240 students have seen the presentation. Additional presentations will be held at Adams Elementary on July 7, Alvarado Elementary on July 15 and Hart Elementary on July 21 and 28.

Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Bureau

“Take a Closer Look: Be a Junior Health Inspector” Program, which teaches fourth grade students about indoor environmental health hazards will make presentations at Adams Elementary on July 7, Alvarado Elementary on July 15 and Grant Elementary on July 16. The interactive PowerPoint presentation teaches students about mold, lead poisoning and unintentional injuries. About 185 students have been deputized as Junior Health Inspectors.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Approximately 70 dignitaries attended the grand opening of Fellowship Park, located at 480 East Willow on June 26. The property for this new community park was deeded to the City of Long Beach, along with the necessary improvements, by Power Self Storage, the adjacent property owner, as a condition of the development of its business location. The children at Veterans Park day camp held a park-naming contest and Christopher Alcendor won with his submission of the name Fellowship Park. There were arts and crafts for the children from the surrounding community.

A “Community Pride” mural dedication was held on June 26 at 2801 E. Anaheim Street. Over 40 community members attended. Artist Chaz, seven community youth, and Mural and Cultural Arts staff artist Jose Loza were recognized for their contributions.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Construction has been completed at Admiral Kidd Park, and the Market Street and Dairy Avenue mini-park. The parks will be opening soon. Construction began at Silverado Park for accessibility improvements outside of the gymnasium. Completion is expected in September.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Seven groups, with 1,720 participants, reserved picnic sites at El Dorado East Regional Park. Two groups of 200 youth participated in a two-night camping stay and two groups of 70 youth participated in a one-night stay. Eighteen groups obtained permits, with attendance of 1,340 persons.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The Municipal Golf Commission, at its June 16 meeting, recommended that the Skylinks Golf Course name be changed to Skylinks at Long Beach. Renovation work continued.

Library Services

The Library welcomed five new community partners into its annual Summer Reading Program and provided training and materials for the partners to encourage children to read every day. Partners include the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department's Mobile Recreation program, Good Beginnings (LBCC), St. Mary's Hospital Families in Good Health, three CORAL school locations, and LBUSD's Literacy program. All will participate in this pilot off-site Library Summer Reading Program and help the Library reach an additional 3,000 children this summer. This enhanced library outreach is made possible through a grant from the American Library Services to Children and Book Wholesalers, Inc.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Property Services Bureau

City Council approved lease extensions for the Long Beach Marriott that will result in the construction of 80 new suites and increase Transient Occupancy Tax by an estimated \$455,000 per year upon completion. The Airport enterprise fund will realize an additional \$86,000 in annual lease payments as the fee for the extension. City Council approved lease extension for an office building at Long Beach Airport Business Park for a fee of \$815,000 payable to the enterprise fund over 10 years.

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

Staff issued 108 Enterprise Zone vouchers to 16 companies. This brings the year-to-date total to 3,653 vouchers issued to 162 companies. Each voucher represents employment for an economically disadvantaged person.

Staff assisted a computer repair business to locate on Pine Avenue. The business owner came to the City's Business Development Center looking for assistance. The Bureau's permit-processing and site-location assistance program allowed the business to open in two weeks. In addition, the business is taking advantage of the City's financial incentive programs such as the Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program and the \$2,000 Grant Program.

Library Services

The Library co-sponsored the Chamber of Commerce's TechPoint Committee at the Main Library on June 29. The TechPoint Committee is made up of people who are in the technology-related business sector. This co-sponsorship is part of the Library's new outreach efforts to the small business community.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

AIDS Walk Long Beach, with an estimated attendance of 500, was held on June 26, at the Terrace Fountain.

The Disabled Sports Summerfest, with an estimated attendance of 500, was held from June 26 to July 2, at the Marine Stadium and Mothers Beach.

The Bixby Knolls Street Fair, with an estimated attendance of 10,000, was held on June 27 on Atlantic Avenue between Bixby Road and Carson Street.

Staff permitted three block parties, a street cleanup, two weddings, and continues its work on the Aquatics Grand Prix of Long Beach and the ICR Marathon.

Columbia Pictures, with a cast and crew size of 125, filmed "The Dinner Party" from June 30 to July 2, in the Bixby Highlands area.

Original Productions, with a cast and crew size of 15, filmed "Monster Garage" on June 29, near the West Coast Choppers building site.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy

Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,669 service calls during the week of June 20 through June 26, 2004. This total included 891 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 718 Turn Offs. During this period, 836 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 224-meter maintenance and billing related orders were completed.

In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 409 emergency phone calls that resulted in 97 emergency orders being sent out.

Library Services

The Library upgraded its automated library system, Horizon, and its online catalog known as the Horizon Information Portal (HIP) on Monday, June 28. This state-of-the-art system will allow the Library to implement additional features such as a children's interface and a Spanish language interface in the future.

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